

today. As a group, we've agreed to double our production by the year 2010 and then have 50 percent of our production E-85-capable by the year 2012. This makes a big difference, and there's nothing that can be done which can reduce the curve of growth in imported oil and actually turn it down like using E-85, taking advantage of what's there today.

So we look forward to the opportunity to work closely with the administration, the Congress to increase the production of ethanol and to improve the distribution. And on the manufacturer's side, we look very, very much forward to playing our role in that process as well.

The President. Thank you—[inaudible].

Alan Mulally. Well, I might add to what Rick said, that we at Ford absolutely are supportive of the President's goal, both for energy efficiency and independence and to be good stewards of our environment.

One of the neat things about the conversation, again, today, on the continuing dialog that we've had, is being able to—for the United States system to have options and have flexibility. And the fact that we have ethanol solutions today, hybrids coming along, and plus hydrogen and fuel cells and new battery technology, gives some great options to satisfy our need for flexibility, as well as being good stewards of the environment.

So, Mr. President, we appreciate the leadership, and we look forward to working with you going forward.

Thomas W. LaSorda. Well, DaimlerChrysler, which includes the Mercedes Car Group, the Freightliner, and other truck divisions in the Chrysler Group, we've committed as well, by 2012, to have 50 percent of our production not only in E-85 but biodiesel. This Jeep Grand Cherokee here today is going into production as we speak, being shipped from the factory with B-5.

So we're very committed to this as well, and we think this is the answer for America to lower our dependence on foreign oil.

Thank you.

The President. One of the things that I think it's important for the American taxpayer to understand is that we're using some of their dollars to promote new technologies, and we're working with these CEOs and

their respective companies to advance new technologies. They're on the leading edge of technological change, and it's in our interest to help promote these new technologies that are coming to the market.

And I'm excited about the future. I'm optimistic we can meet our goal. I look forward to working with Congress to do so. And I appreciate you all coming today.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:11 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. Participating in the meeting were G. Richard Wagoner, Jr., chairman and chief executive officer, General Motors Corp.; Alan Mulally, president and chief executive officer, Ford Motor Co.; and Thomas W. LaSorda, president and chief executive officer, Chrysler Group, DaimlerChrysler.

Proclamation 8116—Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 2007

March 26, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

A future of hope and opportunity in America requires that all our children develop the knowledge and character they need in life. On Education and Sharing Day, we recognize our responsibility to ensure that our young people have the foundation necessary to lead lives rich in purpose and fulfillment.

Education and Sharing Day honors the legacy of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson and emphasizes our commitment to teach the next generation of Americans the values that make our country strong. The Lubavitcher Rebbe believed that society should "make a new commitment to kindness," and he helped to establish education and outreach centers offering social service programs and humanitarian aid around the world.

The character of our young people is strengthened by serving a cause greater than self and by the anchor of virtues, including courage and compassion. By instilling a spirit of service in our children, we create a more optimistic future for them and our Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America,

by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 30, 2007, as Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A. I call upon government officials, educators, volunteers, and all the people of the United States to reach out to young people and work to create a better, brighter, and more hopeful future for all.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:53 a.m., March 28, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 27, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on March 29.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Executives of Large Vehicle Fleet Operations

March 27, 2007

Mr. Secretary, thank you. I want to thank you all very much.

Yesterday I talked with the chief executive officers of U.S. auto companies about what they're doing to help us meet the goal of reducing gasoline usage by 20 percent over 10 years. Today I've had the honor of visiting with private sector companies—"Big Brown," FedEx, the Metro bus line, as well as the Postal Office folks, and DaimlerChrysler as well to talk about how we are using new technologies to convert truck fleets, bus fleets to vehicles that will be able to help meet the goal of reducing gasoline usage by 20 percent over 10 years.

The reason I've come is, I want the American people to understand that there are new technologies on the market that are being used every single day, but there's more we can do. I'm looking forward to working with Congress to meet this goal. And they need to pass meaningful energy legislation as soon as possible, all aiming at making sure that

we promote technologies that, for the sake of our national security and for the sake of good environmental policy, we reduce the usage of gasoline.

The goal I laid out of reducing gasoline by 20 percent over 10 years is a realistic goal. In other words, this isn't a pipedream; this is something that our Nation can accomplish. It's going to take more research dollars; it's going to take working with the private sector; and it's going to take innovative leadership. And I thank the folks here who are representing companies that have got innovative leadership, people willing to make use of technologies that change the way we drive and will change the way we live.

So I appreciate you all being with me. It's an honor to be with you. Thank you for your time.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:39 a.m. at the U.S. Postal Service Vehicle Maintenance Facility. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman.

Remarks on White House Press Secretary Tony Snow

March 27, 2007

This morning I got a phone call from Tony Snow. He called me from the hospital. He told me that when they went in and operated on him, they found cancer. It's a recurrence of the cancer that he thought that he had successfully dealt with in the past. His attitude is, one, that he is not going to let this whip him, and he's upbeat. My attitude is, is that we need to pray for him and for his family.

Obviously, a lot of folks here in the White House worry a lot about their friend, as do Laura and I. And so my message to Tony is, stay strong; a lot of people love you and care for you and will pray for you. And we're hoping for all the best. I'm looking forward to the day that he comes back to the White House and briefs the press corps on the decisions that I'm making and why I'm making them. In the meantime, I hope our fellow citizens offer a prayer to he and his family.

Thank you.